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CIA shouldn't use any reporters: editors

By I. William Hill

Rebuffed by Admr. Stansfield Turner, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Eugene C. Patterson, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, last week (Jan. 5) called on a House Committee to force the CIA to extend its ban on using American journalists for intelligence work to also include foreign journalists.

Patterson, who is editor of the *St. Petersburg Times*, was one of three newspaper editors to testify on the final day of the latest series of hearings held by a subcommittee of the House Intelligence Committee, which seeks eventually to establish guidelines for CIA-media relationships.

The other editors were Clayton Kirkpatrick, editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and chairman of the ASNE International Communications Committee; and Gilbert Cranberg, editorial page editor of the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*. All agreed on the need to ban CIA use of foreign reporters, even if it makes the job of the agency more difficult.

In a climax to his prepared statement, Patterson told of writing CIA Director Turner in December, seeking his reaction to an ASNE resolution calling for prohibition of CIA use of foreign reporters in connection with Turner's previous announcement of a ban on use of American journalists.

Turner's reply was read to the committee by Patterson. It included the following:

"Let me attempt to address the issues raised in your letter by sharing with you the major reasons why our announced policies are carefully and specifically delineated to cover journalists and staff of U.S. news media organizations. The underlying rationale for this position, of course, is CIA's abiding recognition and appreciation of the special status afforded the nation's press under the Constitution. Accordingly, in order to do our part to allay the understandable concern expressed in some quarters that unregulated and widespread CIA relationships in this area tend to undermine the integrity and independence of the U.S. press, we have taken special pains to impose stringent limitations on ourselves in our dealings with U.S. news media organizations themselves and any employes thereof throughout the world, regardless of the nationality of t[illegible]. Although

tionably present obstacles to our ability t[illegible] expeditiously and effectively perform ou[illegible] statutory responsibilities in the area o[illegible] foreign intelligence collection, CIA has chosen to formulate and operate under these limitations in the interests of and out of respect for the separate responsibilities status of the U.S. press as a free and independent institution in our society.

"At the same time, it is our considered opinion that any further extension of the scope of the restrictions beyond U.S.

[illegible] Editors."

Patterson's statement heavily emphasized the two-faced nature of the CIA policy of professing respect for truth at home and then demonstrating abroad "that we don't mean it."

"In sum," Patterson said, "you have

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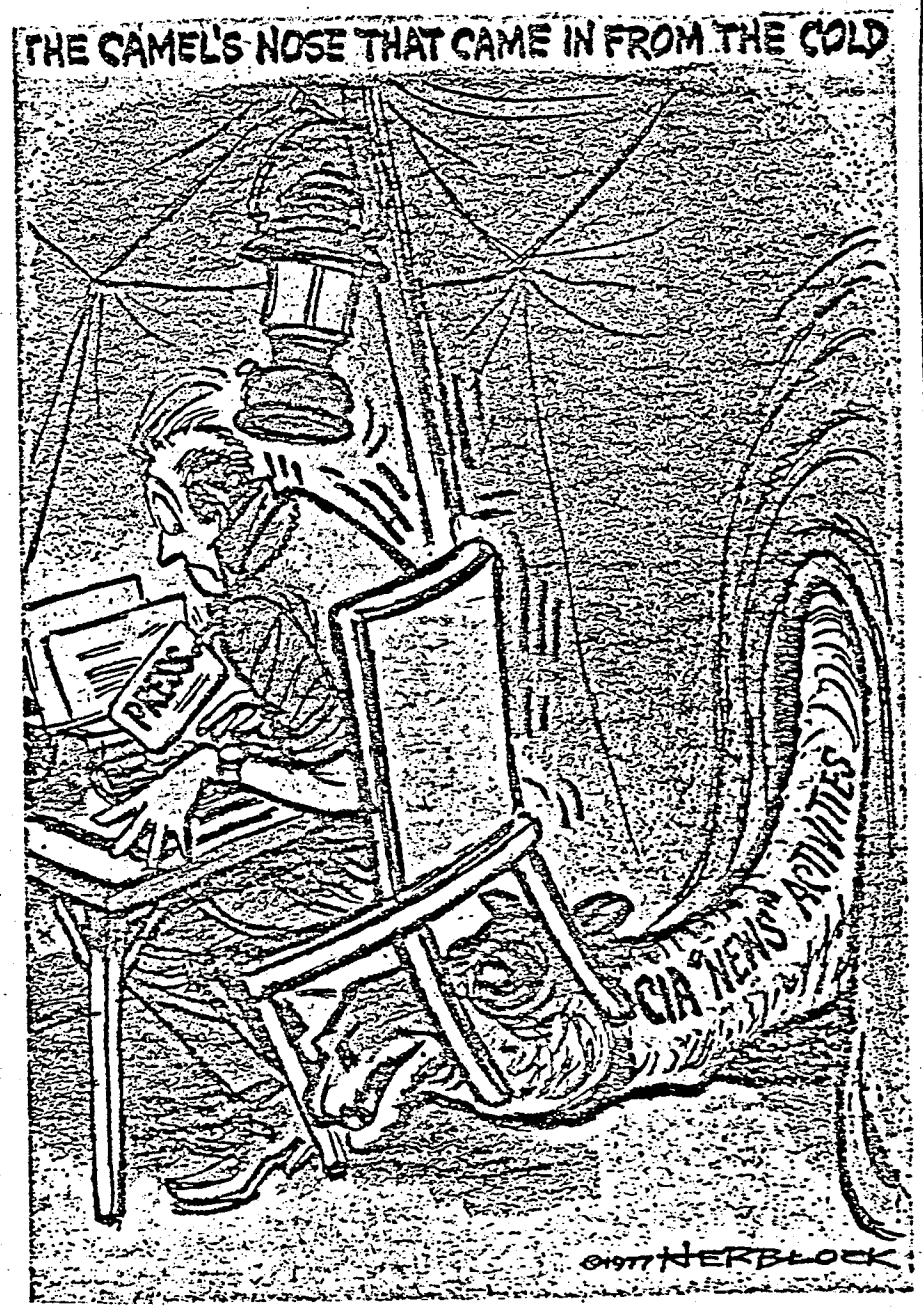

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